

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A device for cutting mailpieces, the device comprising:
- a first cutter wheel having a first cutting edge;
 - a second cutter wheel having a second cutting edge, the second cutting edge having a plurality of notches therein; and
 - means for driving the first and second cutter wheels into rotation;
 - wherein the first and second cutter wheels are positioned to define a cutting nip between the first and second cutting edges such that at times when a mailpiece passes through the cutting nip the interaction of the first and second cutting edges cut the mailpiece except when the plurality of notches are present at the cutting nip whereby after the mailpiece has completely passed through the cutting nip it includes a plurality of slots therein;

wherein the first cutting edge has at least one notch therein that interacts with the second cutting edge to create at least one of the plurality of slots.

2. (currently cancelled)
3. (withdrawn)
4. (withdrawn)
5. (withdrawn)

6. (withdrawn)

7. (withdrawn)

8. (currently amended) A device for cutting mailpieces, the device comprising:

a first cutter wheel having a first cutting edge;

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a second cutter wheel having a second cutting edge, the second cutting edge having a plurality of notches therein and vertical cutting edges that are substantially perpendicular to the second cutting edge and extend downward from the second cutting edge, each of the plurality of notches having a pair of the vertical cutting edges each of which is disposed along a corresponding side of each of the plurality of notches;

a backing member; and

means for driving the first and second cutter wheels and the backing member into rotation;

wherein the first and second cutter wheels are positioned to define a first cutting nip between the first and second cutting edges and the vertical edges and backing member define a second cutting nip therebetween such that at times when a mailpiece passes through the first cutting nip the interaction of the first and second cutting edges make a first cut in the mailpiece except when the plurality of notches are present at the cutting nip and when the mailpiece passes through the second cutting nip the vertical edges make a second cut in the mailpiece substantially perpendicular to the first cut whereby after the mailpiece has completely passed through the first and second cutting nips it has an edge having a castellated appearance including opened edge portions and unopened edge portions.